



## Preparing for Surgery

Once you have called the Spay Neuter Veterinary Clinic and made your appointment, please print out the forms below. Fill out the intake form and the surgical release form and bring them with you to your appointment. If your pet is over 6 years of age, please fill out the geriatric form also.

Having your forms with you already filled out makes your check in process much faster!

<https://www.ccpaac.org/forms/>

In the weeks and days leading up to your pet's surgery, and then on the morning of, make sure your dog or cat has the least amount of stress! Here is everything you need to know about preparing your pet for surgery at the PAAC Spay Neuter Veterinary Clinic.

- We strongly suggest your pet receives vaccinations at least two weeks prior to surgery to help protect your pet from contagious disease such as Bordetella (Kennel Cough) or Parvovirus. We recommend at a minimum Cats receive their distemper combo vaccine and Dogs receive the distemper/parvo combo and their Bordetella (Kennel Cough). You can click <https://www.ccpaac.org/vaccination-clinic-corpus-christi/> for our prices and times for our wellness clinic that is open six days a week to the public.
- While no vaccine is 100% effective, vaccination will lessen the chance of your pet contracting disease, as well as decreasing the severity of the disease if your pet does contract it. Please consult our wellness clinic for further information.
- Ask our wellness clinic about preoperative blood work, starting on heartworm prevention and flea/tick control. You can do the bloodwork the day of surgery, or in advance at our wellness clinic within 30 days of your surgery date. We have a full in-house lab for your convenience and the results of the blood work will be within minutes. Our clinic gets full quickly. We advise you to come early, and check in for your pet. You can ask to be given a return slip with an approximate time to return with your pet for blood work and/or vaccinations and other services such as flea/tick control and heartworm prevention.
- **Preventatives:** Heartworms are parasites transmitted from the bite of a mosquito and can cause a potentially life-threatening disease. Both dogs and cats can become infected,

although dogs are more likely to develop disease. Even indoor animals can get heartworms. Treatment is costly and time consuming and animals can suffer long term effects even after treatment. Prevention is easy to administer to your pet and comes in oral and topical formulations. A pet with heartworms is at a higher risk of complications both during and after surgery and it is highly recommended to have your animal on preventative prior to surgery. Let us know if your pet is heartworm positive. Fleas and ticks are more than just a nuisance. They can transmit serious diseases as well as intestinal parasites to your pet. Fleas can also cause anemia which makes your pet have a higher risk of complications. Some of these diseases can also infect humans. Our wellness clinic can discuss preventative and treatment options for your pet. We strongly discourage over-the-counter oral and topical preventions.

- Make sure your pet is not showing any signs of illness. IF YOUR PET IS VOMITING, HAVING DIARRHEA OR COUGHING, THEY SHOULD NOT BE BROUGHT IN TO THE SPAY NEUTER CLINIC FOR SURGERY. We recommend you get them checked out at our TLC clinic first. Here is the link for the hours and days open. Depending on the issue you may need to wait from when they recover to when you can schedule your appointment, so make sure to let us know when calling if they have had any symptoms of illness.
- It is a good idea to bathe your pet before surgery as they can't be bathed for 10 days afterwards.
- **Fasting:** Any time that your animal may need sedation or anesthesia, you will be instructed to withhold food the night before and the morning of the procedure. They can have water. This is for your pet's safety. For dogs that are less than 5 pounds, puppies, and kittens, we worry that they will become hypoglycemic if food is withheld for too long. For these pets, we recommend giving a very small meal (1/4 what you would normally feed) early the morning of surgery. Your dog or cat may act like they are starving but they will be fine skipping a meal or two and we often offer a small snack after surgery. If they have eaten accidentally, please still keep your appointment and just inform the tech at intake the morning of surgery. We will then do them after the other pets that day.
- **Housing:** Consider where you are going to keep your pet after surgery. They should be in a clean environment where they cannot become too active. Generally, we recommend keeping them indoors for at least 10 days until healed. They should be wearing their e-collar (cone) during this time. We also offer recovery shirts that are less stressful for your pet. Ask about it when you drop your pet off.